

★★★★ ELECTION 2020



Democratic Candidate for Missouri Governor Nicole Galloway speaks to constituents at a meet and greet stop Oct. 21 at Sunrise Park.

Ballot language confuses voters

SAMANTHA COLLISON
News reporter | @sammiecollison

From a cursory glance, Amendment 3, proposed on the 2020 Missouri ballot, appears to propose campaign finance restrictions, but the second half of the amendment regards the separate issue of redistricting.

In 2018, voters approved a ballot initiative that requires a nonpartisan demographer to draw state legislative districts with the intent to achieve “partisan fairness,” according to the initiative. Missouri is the first state to have such a requirement.

While Amendment 3 would prevent state legislators from receiving gifts of any value from lobbyists or their clients — the limit was previously \$5 — and lower the limit on campaign contributions for state senators from \$2,500 to \$2,400, it would also undo the 2018 initiative voters passed with a 62% vote.

Amendment 3, according to the ballot language, would transfer responsibility from the nonpartisan state demographer to a “governor-appointed bipartisan commission.”

Supporters of the 2018 initiative sued the state in May over the language of the amendment on the ballot, and the Cole County Appellate Court modified the amendment on the grounds that the initial wording was “misleading, unfair and insufficient.”

Even with the revised wording, some voters still felt misled by the amendment and regretted their vote when they looked closely afterwards.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

‘EVERY VOTE MATTERS’

Galloway talks the issues in Maryville

RACHEL ADAMSON
Editor-in-Chief | @racheladamsonn
SAMANTHA COLLISON
News reporter | @sammiecollison

Around 30 Maryville community members gathered at a rain-soaked Sunrise Park to hear Nicole Galloway, the Democratic candidate for Missouri governor, speak as part of her preelection bus tour Oct. 21. Hosted by local activist and high school teacher Jessica Piper and introduced by Missouri congressional candidate Gena Ross, Galloway said she came to Maryville because for her, every vote matters. Galloway — in her speech, social media posts and advertisements — reinforced the idea of this being a close race. In spite of Missouri’s reputation as a red state, the state’s gubernatorial election is traditionally anyone’s game. Of the last 10 governors elected in Mis-

souri, five were Democrats and five were Republicans. “I have been here (Maryville) several times before, and every vote matters,” Galloway said. “I do hope that people find their voice in this election and exercise their own power by voting for candidates up and down the ballot.” This year, neither candidate has been elected to the office before, with incumbent Mike Parson — former lieutenant governor — taking on the role after the resignation of Gov. Eric Greitens amid impeachment hearings. Both candidates have a history in the capitol, however, with Parson serving in the Missouri House of Representatives and Senate before being elected lieutenant governor in 2016 and Galloway serving as state auditor since 2015.

SEE GALLOWAY | A4

Administrator candidates make case to voters

ASHLEY LOSSON
News Reporter | @Ashley_Losson

On Nov. 3, residents of Nodaway County will go to their voting stations to choose the candidates they feel are best for each position. Other than the county sheriff’s race, another contested position is public administrator. The public administrator takes care of finances, assets and living situations for people who have been declared incapacitated by a judge. The public administrator only takes care of this if there is no one closer to the individual who is incapacitated that can assist them. Public administrators are also required to see the people under their guardianship at least four times a year. In Nodaway County, Dee O’Riley and Diane Thomsen are running against one another for that duty. O’Riley has served as city clerk, treasurer and a tax preparer in Hopkins, Missouri, for the past 17 years and will continue to serve as city clerk, treasurer and tax preparer part time if she wins. Thomsen has served as public administrator for Nodaway

County for the past 12 years. O’Riley is running as a Republican and said she believes she will be able to help people because she was recently in a situation where she had to depend on others. “Recently, I found myself in a position which required me to depend on others for everyday care,” O’Riley said in an email. “From that, I have gained a new perspective and a desire to give back to my community.” O’Riley has a background in accounting and has had experience in working with clients with financial needs through her work as a tax preparer. “I have a background in accounting and serving the public. ... I will provide an empathetic and caring aspect to the position,” O’Riley said in an email. Additionally, O’Riley said she is running for more than the job title — she wants to help people when nobody else will.

SEE ADMIN | A4



Nodaway County Sheriff Randy Strong speaks at the 2020 General Election Candidate Forum hosted by the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce. At the event, Strong continued his campaign message of citing accomplishments of his administration.

Strong, White clash at election forum

KENDRICK CALFEE
News Editor | @calfee_kc

Candidates running for office in Nodaway County made an appearance in front of voters at the 2020 General Election Candidate Forum, where contested roles saw questions from a panel of moderators and the audience. Those running for positions of public administrator, south district commissioner, county sheriff and one congressional candidate running for Missouri’s 6th District in the U.S. House of Representatives were all in attendance. The event, hosted by the Greater Maryville Chamber of Commerce Oct. 20, had in-person and virtual attendance options for

candidates and the audience. At the socially distant, masked-up event, each candidate was given the chance to introduce themselves and share why they think they are the best fit for the position they are running for. Unlike a debate, candidates did not address their opponents as much, but focused on questions provided to them.

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A full version of this story with a closer look at the 2020 General Election Candidate Forum is available online at NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

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University Police realizes role in health

UPD records 117 well-being checks, 70 since August



Senior Cayla Vertreese speaks at an Active Minds event Sept. 30 in the Ron Houston Center for the Performing Arts. Vertreese brought Active Minds to Northwest after a well-being check her freshman year that lead to her being hospitalized for six days.

ABIGAIL STARR
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

The University Police Department is continuing wellness checks to provide mental health resources for Northwest students in immediate need and to those who need temporary assistance.

For the last 25 years, UPD has worked with resources in the community to provide wellness checks on students and faculty. Police Chief Clarence Green said wellness checks often start with someone in need reaching out to UPD via phone or social media.

Advisers, family members or others can refer someone for a wellness check if they're concerned for someone's well-being. While on-campus personnel are required to report specific crimes such as Title IX violations, they are not required to refer students struggling with their mental health to UPD. Green said UPD has done 117 wellness checks this calendar year as of Sept. 28. With one Wellness Check done per day, he estimates it's closer to 70 since August for this academic year.

"There are so many outside influences, and the climate of the world in general being paired with being in a new environment is overwhelming," Green said.

First-year University Wellness counselor Hayston Wilson said he feels disappointed that freshmen and other students are unable to make friends through in-person activities like they once could.

"Northwest lends itself to being a positive social environment," Wilson said. "Now the rug has been pulled out from under students, so to speak."

Wilson was hired following an outcry for more mental health resource funding from the Student Senate last academic year. Wilson said he's grateful they did, because without him, Wellness Services wouldn't be as prepared for the increase in need this year.

Twenty-five new students requested help from Wellness Services for mental health concerns the week of Oct. 16. With five counselors instead of last year's four, wait times are down from four weeks to two. With closures and fewer in-person activities, students have more time while counselors schedules are filling up.

Wilson said students no longer have access to outlets that once

helped them cope due to COVID-19 distancing measures and closures. He recommends finding "balance" between six categories of a person's life: physical, social, emotional, occupational, intellectual and spiritual.

"Inventory of the wheel is important. Finding creative strategies to bring the balance up will help you in the long run," Wilson said.

Wilson and Green agree students most often struggle with anxiety, depression or an undiagnosed mental illness.

"Eighteen to 26 is the peak time where mental disorders start showing up, and that's the bulk of our community," Green said.

Regardless of the issue, when a wellness check is initiated, UPD has to categorize the risk level of the person in need. Green describes a low risk as a person needing someone to talk to about current struggles in their lives. UPD sees medium-risk cases most often. This is an individual who will be connected to a more permanent resource such as a counselor.

High-risk students are offered services faster through Wellness Services' triage day, and they are often taken to Mosaic Medical Center for further evaluation and assistance. Once a week, counselors with Wellness Services leave their days free to give assistance to those who can't wait a week to speak to someone.

Senior Cayla Vertreese was hospitalized due to mental illness her first year at Northwest. She suffers from major depressive disorder and anxiety. Mosaic Medical Center - Maryville held her for her own safety for six days the Thursday before Labor Day weekend.

UPD Officer Shadon Miller drove Vertreese to the hospital. He followed up via email when she was released, offering his contact information so she would always have someone to talk to if she found herself in need of help again.

Since, Vertreese has found ways to help others fighting similar battles. She brought Active Minds to campus. Active Minds is a nonprofit organization supporting mental health awareness and education for young adults. The group launched their "Green Bandana Campaign" to spread awareness and resources on campus.

The UPD requested 13 bandanas from Active Minds to join the campaign.

Police departments nationwide have seen a refocus, with additional training for mental health and observing implications it has on crime. UPD is one of many agencies recognizing its role in mental health awareness.

UPD Officer Anthony Williams is a specialist in outreach who trains fellow officers on how to approach a person's needs including what

“Eighteen to 26 is the peak time where mental disorders start showing up, and that’s the bulk of our community.”

-CLARENCE GREEN

language to use and what to wear when escorting someone to Mosaic. Every member of UPD has undergone crisis intervention training.

"They are working on helping to destigmatize mental health along with us and make themselves out to be an approachable support system and resource for students on campus," Vertreese said.

Anyone interested is welcome to Active Minds' virtual meetings 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday. The group can be found on social media @activeminds_nwmsu or can email the group at activeminds@nwmissouri.edu.

Additionally, the Wellness Center holds in-person Wellness Workshops 2 p.m. every Thursday in the J.W. Jones Student Union Meeting Room B along with other activities on their calendar.

Anyone who struggles with mental health can call the national suicide prevention hotline at 800-273-8255. Students can also reach the Northwest Wellness Center at 660-562-1348.

Northwest to keep similar class structure for spring

ASHLEY LOSSON
News Reporter | @Ashley_Losson

As the spring 2021 semester approaches, Northwest has put in three plans of action in case COVID-19 cases start to go up.

Provost Jamie Hooyman said, what has happened this fall is likely to continue through next semester. A hybrid teaching style, where students attend class in person on some days and complete online content or

attend through Zoom on other days, is expected in the spring.

According to Hooyman most classes will likely stay the same, but it will be up to the professors.

"We didn't want to make change just for change sake," Hooyman said. "We want to make sure we're basing it off of good information."

Hooyman said a lot of what happens when students return Jan. 13, 2021 will depend on what happens over the break. She listed examples like the number of cases increasing or if a vaccine is developed.

"What we are doing is planning as if COVID was still doing what it's doing now," Hooyman said, "So the classes are being planned with hybrid and social distancing."

Right now on campus and in

Nodaway County, cases are gradually going back up. Over the past seven days, Oct. 13 through Oct. 19, active cases on campus have increased from 34 to 48. In the county, cases have gone from 139 to 160.

However, if things start to get better and cases start to go down significantly, Hooyman said the school will start to pull back on COVID-19 precautionary measures.

As far as the spring schedule goes, it won't be any different from past spring semesters. Students will have Martin Luther King Jr. Day off, a week for spring break and the last week will be for finals with the semester concluding May 7, 2021.

However, Hooyman said there are three different plans in place depending on the patterns of CO-

VID-19 cases this winter.

The three plans vary based on the number of cases, hospitalizations and if it involves faculty, staff or students.

"One would be kind of similar to what we're doing this time," Hooyman said. "We would probably do away with spring break, move the ending (of the semester) up and put finals online."

Some students are opposed to this plan, one of them being Megan Andrews, a junior at Northwest. Andrews said she needs the break between midterms and finals.

The second plan would give students Fridays or Mondays off five different times, still providing a break for students throughout the semester.

"You would still get the mental breaks, but it wouldn't be where you would leave and be gone for a whole week," Hooyman said.

Andrews said she also doesn't fully like this plan either. Andrews lives five hours away in St. Louis, Missouri, and wants to use spring break to go home and spend time with family.

"It's not like my mom can come here," Andrews said. "If this happens, I won't be able to go home until after finals."

The final plan consists of pushing spring break closer towards finals so that students would go home for a week, then come back to a week of classes and then finals week.

Andrews said this is the best option of the three for her case because she'd get her mental break and be able to see family, then she would only have two weeks before she could go home for the summer.

The final plan is also the most similar to what the fall semester has encompassed.

"What we have found is most students want to be here," Hooyman said. "They want the college experience. They know they can learn better if they're in the classroom, but we want to be able to deliver that in a safe manner."

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Funds remain stable during COVID-19

MADELINE MAPES
News Reporter | @MadelineDMapes

Due to the state revenues improving, Missouri Gov. Mike Parson will unfreeze funds that he placed expenditure restrictions on near the start of the pandemic, returning more than half million dollars to Northwest’s budget. The Springfield News-Leader reported that Parson will return a portion of the frozen funds to institutions since the state revenues have improved.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Stacy Carrick said despite this good news, she worries that this return of funds for universities like Northwest will not last long.

When the pandemic first began to affect the state’s revenues, Parson instituted two expenditure restrictions, which is a way to freeze funding after the state budget has been approved. The combined restrictions withheld \$3.9 million in funding from fiscal year 2020 that the University would have received.

The state then withheld another \$3.8 million from fiscal year 2021 in July in state appropriations for the University, of which only a portion will be returned with the unfreezing of the appropriations.

Carrick said when the University closed in Spring 2020, the University cut costs where it could to make up for the lost revenue. She said the University cut back on utilities and expenses for certain buildings, wait-

ed to fill open positions and delayed some capital improvements to facilities on campus to help save money.

Carrick said she is concerned that if the state revenues drop again, Parson will install another expenditure restriction, leaving institutions scrambling to make ends meet again.

“(The state) could come back later in the year ... We could see a further reduction; we could see them give more back,” Carrick said. “It just truly depends on how the state revenues continue to perform.”

Carrick and the University was informed that of the \$3.8 million that was restricted, the University will get back \$556,000, which is about 14.6% of what it should have received.

Carrick said this \$556,000 was already budgeted in the fiscal year’s budget, which means when the institution receives that portion of their funding, it will be used for what it was originally intended to operate with.

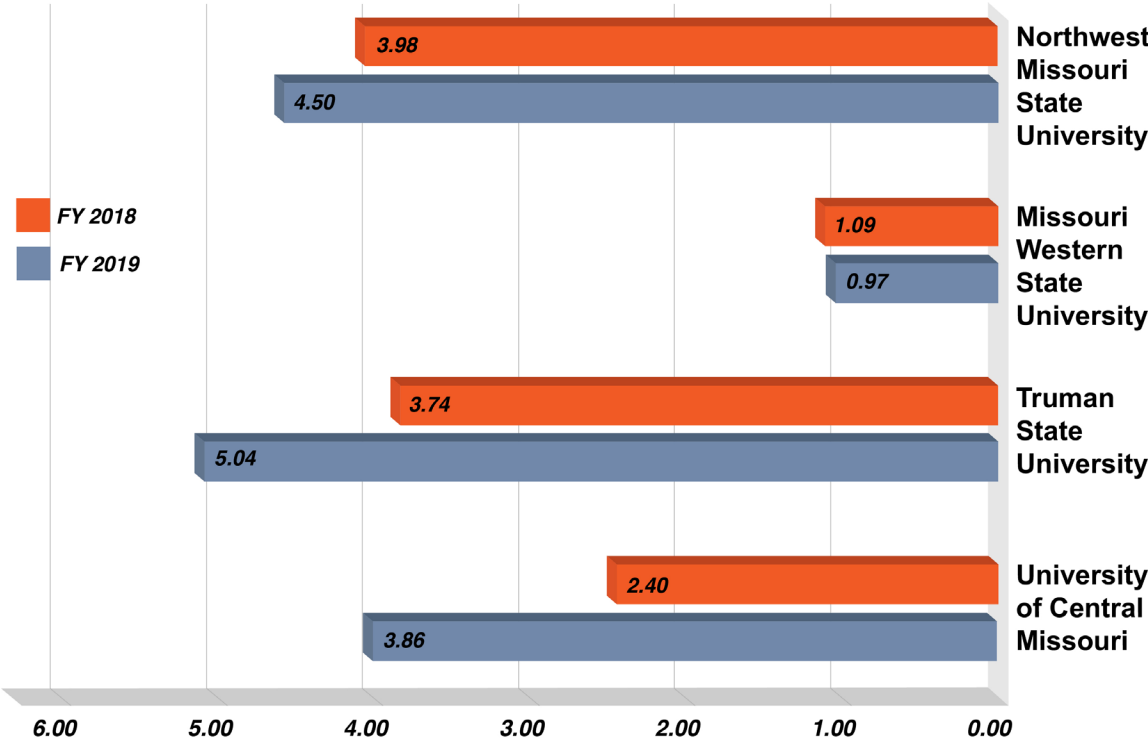
“It’s not like we are getting additional money; we’re getting money back that they took away, if you will,” Carrick said.

Originally, the University was to receive about \$30.2 million in state appropriations, but with the expenditure restriction, it collected only about \$26.3 million.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Composite Financial Index Comparisons

Composite Financial Index provides a methodology for a single overall financial measurement of the institution’s financial health. Accredited institutions are required each year to provide data to the Higher Learning Commission through the Institutional Update. The financial data submitted generates the CFI which is a benchmarking tool developed specifically for the higher education industry. The overall CFI uses a weighted average of key ratios and converts them to a common scale. The CFI score is then compared to a recommended threshold (3.0 is considered “healthy”), peer results and to your own previous results. Northwest has the second highest CFI of state public institutions.



Note: YF2020 information not yet compiled; pending completion of year-end financial audits.

EMILY KUNKEL | NW MISSOURIAN

Freshman loses \$4,800 from fake job offer scam

ABIGAIL STARR
News Reporter | @abbeystarr5

A Northwest freshman overdrafted his bank account by \$4,800 after being sent fraudulent checks from a fake employer following an email scam.

Darren Ross woke up to an email on Oct. 1 claiming he’d been accepted to a new position as a personal assistant to someone who helps the disabled. Ross said he was eager for an opportunity to make extra money.

On Sept. 29, Ross had attended Career Day to open himself to employment opportunities and make connections. This led Ross to believe the offer came from a partner of Career Services.

“I was in the moment of wanting to build careers and jobs, and I was focused on getting those steps done,” Ross said.

The employer appeared to be a Northwest faculty member. The first email linked to another email address that shared no personal information other than a picture of a Florida ID. The contact never offered to meet in person. The two continued to communicate via text due to Ross sharing his phone number with the supposed employer. By

the afternoon of Oct. 1, Ross knew something was off.

According to Ross, the hourly rate was high for the amount of work required. The rate was \$450 for six to eight hours of work each week.

“My own emotions started catching up to me,” Ross said. “The replies were coming not even 10 seconds after I would send information which means they were probably autogenerated.”

This suspicion caused Ross to reach out to Career Services to confirm this offer was legitimate. A Career Services representative advised him not to engage anymore with the contact.

However, Ross decided it was worth the income to continue. The employer sent a series of e-checks via email totaling over \$7,000 to cover the expenses of his duties and pay his salary for the week.

Ross then deposited the check into his bank account on Friday. Because the deposit is displayed in his checking account on his banking app before the checks are processed, Ross was sure he had sufficient funds to make the purchases. Ross spent his weekend fulfilling the requests of his employers purchasing and mailing items to the



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest freshman Darren Ross sits in the J.W. Jones Student Union discussing his story about being scammed through his Northwest email. Ross was frauded \$4,800 from a fake employer.

address he was given.

On the morning of Oct. 5, Ross received a call from his bank, informing him that his card was on a temporary hold due to involvement in fraudulent activity and he had \$4,800 of insufficient funds in his checking account.

“I was devastated,” Ross said. “I was blinded by money, and I want to warn other people not to be.”

Ross enlisted the help of officer

to narrow in on potential suspects.

Martinez has used her resources to try to give Ross answers. She’s already found that the photo ID from the scammer was stolen from a man in Pembroke Pines, Florida, and the email address came from California.

One of the common elements of Ross’ story is the appearance that a faculty member sent the email. Martinez recommends trying to find the staff member in the Northwest directory.

Another common behavior is what Martinez calls the “fish call.” A caller hooks the victim with a name or organization they represent, asks the victim to complete a task and rewards you with money.

“They take advantage of those eager to do good,” Martinez said.

According to Assistant Vice President of Information Technology Brennan Lehman, Northwest leverages spam filtering technology to help remove spam messages and malware.

In an email to the Northwest Missourian, Lehman said thousands of messages are blocked monthly due to being flagged as spam.

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CRIME LOG

for the week of Oct. 22

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

- Oct. 18**

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.
- Oct. 16**

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.
- Oct. 13**

There is an open investigation for harassment at Forest Village Apartments.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

- Oct. 17**

A summons was issued to **Ryan P. Mendick**, 20, charges with minor in possession on the 200 block of West 6th Street.
- Oct. 17**

There is an ongoing investigation for property damage on the 2000 block of South Main Street.

- Oct. 17**

Police recovered lost or stolen property — a cooler — on the 1600 block of South Main Street.

- Oct. 16**

There is an ongoing investigation for a peace disturbance on the 2600 block of South Main Street.

- Oct. 14**

There is an ongoing investigation for burglary on the 1500 block of East Cooper Street.

- Oct. 13**

A summons was issued to **Ronald P. Caselman**, 35, for wanted on warrant— failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 2400 block of South Main Street.

- Oct. 12**

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 500 block of West Third Street.

- Sept. 30**

There is an ongoing investigation for financial exploitation on the 300 block of North Main Street.



Northwest freshmen students continue wearing masks on campus as a University protocol for COVID-19 precautions. Nodaway County had 160 active cases as of Oct. 19, Northwest students and staff make up 30% of those active cases.

COVID-19 upward trend continues

ANDREW WEGLEY
Managing Editor | @andrewwegley

After COVID-19 cases both at Northwest and throughout Nodaway County had largely subsided in the middle and late parts of September, the seven-day rolling average of new virus cases in the county has continued to increase throughout the month of October.

On Oct. 2, Nodaway County reported nine new cases of COVID-19, as the seven-day rolling average rose slightly from 7.43 to 7.86, marking the start of the uptick that has now stretched for three full weeks. The rolling average of new daily cases has increased in 15 of the 18 days reported since then and reached a month-long high of 16.57 Oct. 16. The average has remained in double digits for two full weeks now, sitting at 13.86 as of Oct. 19 — the latest available data at the time of publication.

Meanwhile, cases involving Northwest staff and students have relatively skyrocketed in October. After active cases among student and staff populations remained less than 20 for nearly two weeks in late September and the first week of October, the case count has ballooned to 48 — more than five times what it was Oct. 1.

As of Oct. 19, the active case count in Nodaway County as a

whole sits at 160 — the highest it’s been since early September, when the county was still reeling from an intense spike in cases that arrived with an influx of Northwest students in August. Northwest staff and students make up 30% of those active cases, down from a high of more than 69% at the height of the pandemic in the county.

The latest trend in cases in the county hasn’t come as a surprise to Nodaway County Health Department Administrator Tom Patterson, who said last week he anticipated the increases in cases to continue, though he predicted COVID-19 wouldn’t reach the levels it did in late August, when Northwest President John Jasinski warned students the University’s in-person semester might soon end if mitigation efforts weren’t followed.

“It’s not looking better, but we’re not compounding, so it’s not doom and gloom either,” Patterson said in a phone call Oct. 21. “I think we may stay here a little bit, but I really don’t know. It’s a total guess.”

Officials have blamed the rise in cases throughout the county and on Northwest’s campus, at least in part, to a sort-of COVID-19 fatigue, a theory that has gained traction at a national level. Patterson, as well as University and Maryville officials, has mentioned the phenomenon to

the Northwest Missourian over the last several weeks, as cases continued to rise again three full months after Maryville’s mask ordinance went into effect.

And while the pandemic’s wearing effects seemed to first reach adults in the county in the earliest portions of October, they have now caught up with Northwest staff and students.

“We’re not out of the woods yet,” University Communication Manager Mark Hornickel said last week. “We’re continuing to monitor this and the effects on our campus and the community.”

The continued rise in cases comes as temperatures in Nodaway County have started to regularly drop, which could result in increased community transmission of COVID-19, Patterson said, though he has two diverging patterns of thought on what the winter months might mean for the virus.

In Patterson’s first line of thinking, which he said is considered to be conventional wisdom, COVID-19 may spread throughout the county at higher rates in the winter months, with lower temperatures forcing social gatherings indoors, where the virus is more easily transmitted.

But, Patterson said, it’s possible social gatherings this winter come with smaller social circles, with

less room to host a large number of guests like one might be able to outdoors in the summer months. The smaller social circles could lead to less transmission, Patterson said. He’s not sure which line of thinking will prevail.

“They might balance each other out somewhat,” Patterson said. “I think it would lean towards the former and not the latter, but, you know — I don’t know. I just can’t ignore that other. That trailing factor for me is that we’re also getting out less (in the winter).”

As temperatures drop and cases rise, Northwest staff and students still have more than a month left to go until Nov. 24, the end of the in-person and hybrid semester on the University’s campus. And while many of Northwest’s roughly 7,000 students will abandon Nodaway County for more than a month over the winter break, decreasing the volume of residents in Maryville, Patterson said he isn’t looking forward to the end of the in-person semester. He hasn’t had time to look forward much at all.

“It’s not even on my radar,” Patterson said. “Honestly, we’re just working day to day, trying to keep our messaging straight ... trying to help out the community, including the college. Helping our patients and our cases. We’re just engaged, and that’s so far out there.”



HAILEY MACH | NW MISSOURIAN
Diane Thomsen fills out finance paperwork in her office the morning of Oct. 20. The former Bearcat is running for her fourth term as Nodaway County’s public administrator.

ADMIN CONTINUED FROM A1

Thomsen, on the other hand, is running as a Democrat and said she has the experience, knowledge, passion and contacts to know how to help people.

Thomsen said people who are under guardianship are more comfortable with the same person.

“It provides continuity in the guardianship role,” Thomsen said. “A lot of people under guardianship don’t like sudden change.”

Thomsen said that in her 12 years as public administrator, she has helped people regain their rights. According to the Division of Senior and Disability Services, the court may take away certain rights from an incapacitated person for their well-being.

“I’ve had some people that have had their voting rights restored to them,” Thomsen said.

Thomsen gave an example of how she has helped someone with financial troubles while she held the public administrator position. She said this person needed financial help because they had 12 credit cards that were used to buy gifts for people; however, these gifts were used to get the receivers’ attention.

“I just want to be able to continue the work that I am doing to help those people,” Thomsen said, “I know some people that are stepping down ... from the type of environment they’re in, and I’m hoping that in a year or two I can get their rights restored.”

Thomsen currently has 71 cases. Whoever is elected in November will take these cases on.

Melinda Patton, the Nodaway

County clerk, gave details on the requirements for a public administrator and voting in an email.

The public administrator must be a United States citizen for at least one year prior to the election, registered to vote in the county they are running in at the time of filing, resident of the county they are filing in. They must be at least 21 years old, must be capable of obtaining a bond of at least \$10,000, must pay taxes. They cannot have been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony and cannot be given the oath of office if delinquent on any candidate committee reports.

In order to vote for public administrator, a person must be registered to vote in Nodaway County and show a form of identification when coming to vote. The date has passed to register to vote in Nodaway County.

William Loy's

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expires Jan 1, 2021

GALLOWAY CONTINUED FROM A1

“I think people are excited about this election because they see an opportunity for change, a forward-looking vision for Missouri,” Galloway said. “We don’t have to be stuck doing the same old thing the same old way. We can have new leadership, and we can have better and more innovative ways of doing things in Jefferson City.”

Healthcare is a big issue in the 2020 election in Missouri, and Galloway spoke in support of Amendment 2 to expand Medicaid, but she also talked about the unbalanced costs of education for students and teachers.

“Students struggle with the cost of higher education; teacher pay has been stagnant for 15 years. Folks don’t have access to healthcare, particularly young folks that are graduating,” Galloway said.

Junior McKell Norris, who said she tends to be moderate politically, said she wants to look more into educational funding in Missouri because of Galloway’s comments.

“I’m from a rural area, so her expansion of Medicaid is really important to me,” Norris said. “I was out to cheer her on, and one of our



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Democratic Candidate for U.S. Representative Gena Ross introduced Democratic Candidate for Missouri Governor Nicole Galloway at a meet and greet event Oct. 21 at Sunrise Park.

friends worked with her campaign and told us about this event.”

Freshman Mary Do has never voted before, but she said she is definitely going to vote for Galloway after the event.

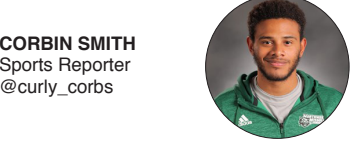
“I came to support a candidate who will put Missouri first and help working class families,” Do said. “I was cheering her on, and I wanted to get more into politics in college, and definitely from today, my vote is for her.”

Closing out her speech, she nearly begged voters to make their voices heard and spent the rest of her time bumping elbows with attendees and chatting before getting back on her bus and heading to her next tour stop in Kirksville, Missouri.

“I have found on the campaign trail that young people are excited and motivated, and so now they need to — I’m hoping that they take that excitement and turn it into voting Nov. 3,” Galloway said.

FOR THE CULTURE:

Men need to focus on ending stigma



Why is it so hard to express your feelings? Why is it such a bad thing to feel life’s ups and downs? Is it because the world finds emotion opposite of productivity? Or does society just lack the capacity for compassion?

To be honest, I’ve never understood why I used to feel uncomfortable speaking about what’s going on in my head, especially to other men. There’s this taboo that, by airing out your grievances, you’re submitting to weakness or inferiority.

Speaking out about the demons you battle in your head deems you neither weak nor inferior. It does the opposite.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness month, and I’ve been more aware than ever this year. The month of September was eye-opening for me because a lot of my guy friends were really struggling mentally, and it was difficult for them to open up about it. There were multiple late nights when my friends allowed their guards to drop, and some conversations were held for the first time outside the confines of their mind. This came as a shock to me because I had no idea the type of pain these seemingly invincible people had been hiding.

We’ve all heard that a person hides their true feelings behind a smile, but that narrative is harder to hear when you realize it’s more of a biography than a fairytale. Hearing this from my friends made me realize that anybody is subject to their own mental prisons, and we should be open to helping them break out.

For me, speaking my mind has always been met with some resistance. Despite being a writer, I’m not the best at translating my thoughts and feelings into words.

I’ve always been the person who listens to others, gives advice and makes people feel like they deserve to be heard. As a result, I’ve placed myself in the role of the people-pleaser, something my family always reminded me of, and not someone who’s allowed to feel negative emotions. I always thought I needed to support others, not be supported myself.

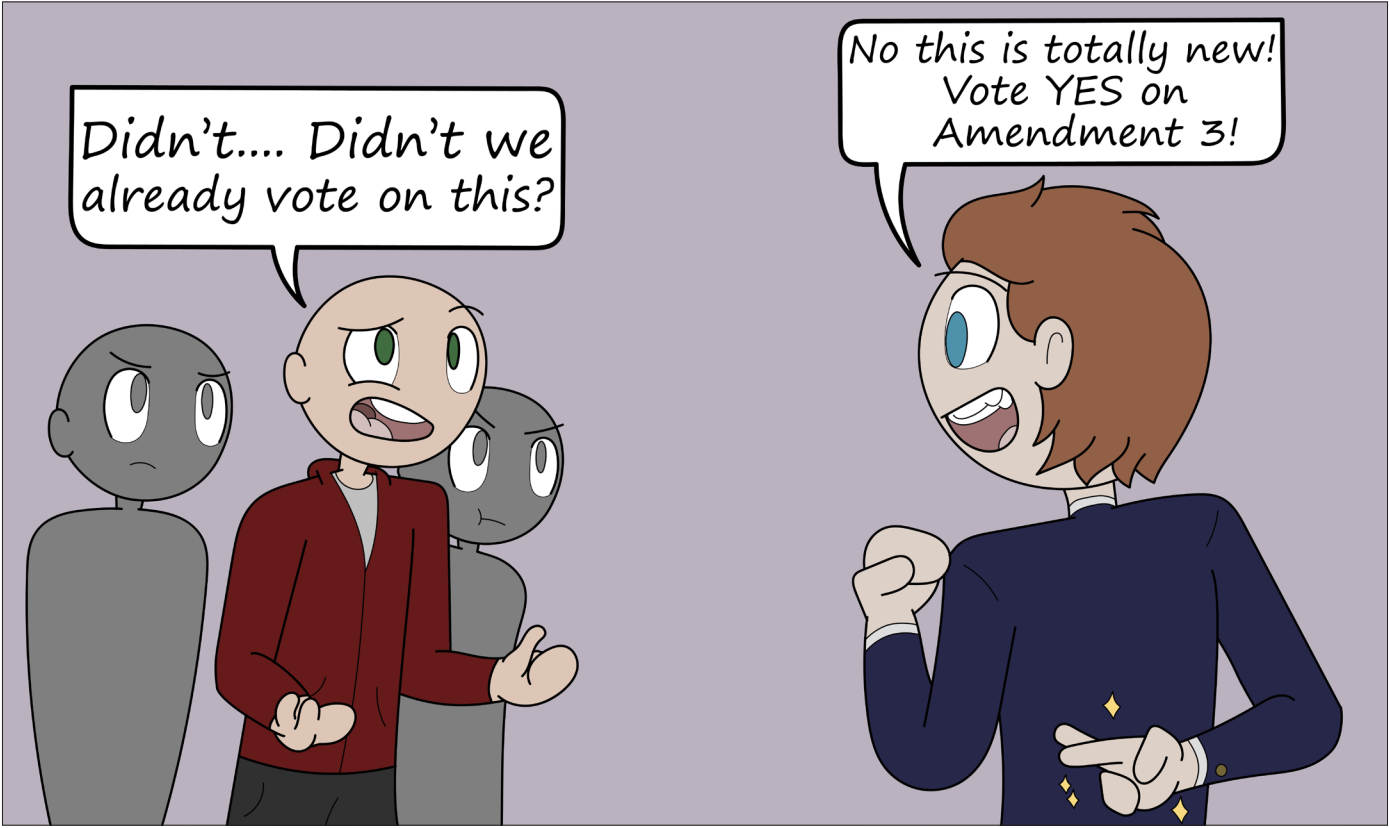
Turns out, many people have the same struggle, but for a different reason. From the multiple conversations I’ve had with men in my life, I’ve realized that we have an interesting perspective on mental or emotional stability.

In the driveway of my home, my father sat in an old lawn chair while I scrubbed my car’s headlights clean. As I was enjoying picking my dad’s brain, we stumbled upon the topic of self-acceptance and happiness. After going back and forth about the family benefits of escaping the hood of St. Louis he grew up in, I said he must be happy with where he’s at in life.

“Who said I’m happy with who I am?” my father said in response.

Anyone who struggles with mental health can call the national suicide prevention hotline at 800-273-8255. Students can also reach the Northwest Wellness Center at 660-562-1348.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



CHRIS YOUNG | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

VOTE NO ON 3

Amendment ballot language swindles voters

Amendment 3, which is on the ballot in the November 2020 election, is a representation of the worst of politics. It’s a thinly veiled attempt to trick voters into making Missouri’s redistricting system more partisan under the guise of “cleaning up” campaign finance in the Show-Me State. It needs to be defeated.

The main issue with Amendment 3 is that it’s an attempt to overturn something voters passed by a decent majority just two years prior. In 2018, Missouri voters passed Amendment 1 with 62% of the vote. Amendment 1 created the position of the nonpartisan state demographer. The demographer would be chosen from a pool of applicants with input from the state auditor and majority and minority state Senate leaders.

It was designed to make the process of redistricting, the drawing of districts in Missouri that would determine representation as populations ebb and flow, less partisan. The demographer would submit their map to the district commissions for approval.

The commissioners would be allowed to amend the map, but only with 70% of the vote among commissioners. If they could not reach that number then the amendment stated the demographer’s map must be implemented.

The measure — which was overwhelmingly approved — ensured that no

matter the party in power, the redistricting process would not be politicized. The goal of Amendment 1, dubbed the Clean Missouri Amendment, was to create more competitive races at the state level. It was also to limit the possibility of deadlock over redistricting that often occurred under the old system.

Because the committee in charge of redrawing the map was evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, the actual decision over the map would go to judges because the sides couldn’t agree. This happened in 2011, and the judges’ decision reportedly made members of both parties very upset because sometimes incumbents were shifted to new areas and different voting blocks, according to St. Louis Public Radio.

Amendment 3 is seeking to turn back the clock to the system that made both sides upset and caused lengthy delays in the process as a whole.

The amendment also substitutes in the vague and weaker language in areas of Missouri’s redistricting policy that are designed to protect minority communities, equal populations throughout the districts and the importance of bipartisanship, according to the Brennan Center, a bipartisan law and policy institute. It is making redistricting more partisan, which is bad for both Democrats and Republicans alike.

Critics of Clean Missouri said that the amendment was designed to confuse voters. Featured prominently in the description of what Clean Missouri would do was its aim to limit lobbyist gifts to \$5 and campaign contributions to \$2,500. Those critics believe this was disingenuous because the important part of the amendment was redistricting not lobbyist gifts and campaign finance reform.

If one were to look at an official ballot for 2020 in the state of Missouri, they would notice that Amendment 3 is doing the exact same thing. The amendment states that it will further lower lobbyist gifts from Clean Missouri as well as limit campaign contributions by an additional \$100.

Conveniently located last is the actual issue of redistricting, buried beneath the pork of the amendment. It’s an obvious attempt to thwart voters who make a quick glance over what the amendment will do before marking their ballot. If it wasn’t OK in 2018, it isn’t now.

Amendment 3 is clear in its motives and purposefully confusing in its language. It’s a signal that those backing the amendment believe that voters don’t know what is best for themselves. It is seeking to get the electorate to vote against themselves and their own interests, and it needs to be defeated.

YOUR VIEW:

How will you be voting on Amendment 3? Why?

ALYSSA BISHOP
Junior
Early Childhood Education



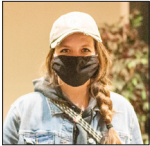
“I really have not done any research on that so, oh my goodness, I actually have no idea.”

TY WILLIAMS
Junior
Biochemistry



“I will be voting no on Amendment 3 because gerrymandered maps will not be able to be fixed if they are rigged, and therefore our rights to challenge those maps will be taken away, essentially.”

KEATLEY COTTER
Senior
Secondary English Education



“I haven’t done enough research on this topic to know exactly how I’m voting, but after hearing this question, I plan to research it a bit more.”

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat loves pumpkin patches

Waking up early on Saturday to go pick out some large orange fruit to stab with a knife in the company of loved ones is a true Midwestern tradition. I look forward to the opportunity every single fall, and this year I can’t wait to go out and waste, I mean spend, a Saturday on the hallowed grounds of a pumpkin patch.

Some people like to get out early in the pumpkin patch season and get an early job on the best putrid melons the place has to offer; this is a mistake. Sure, you

get more display time for your pumpkin and it’s not as cold and packed and the pumpkin quality is higher, but that’s not what this tradition is about.

It’s about waking up before Big Ten football would normally start and putting on your warmest flannel. It’s about going the last weekend before Halloween when the weather is a balmy 40 degrees and rainy. Yeah, the pumpkins are a little deformed or rotten, but that just makes them scarier. Isn’t that what spooky season — the term is

being used by Karens now which dramatically decreases its cool factor — is about?

I know the question burning in your mind, and no, you may not go to the grocery store and buy a pumpkin. Posers buy pumpkins from stores. You need to pay money to go to an organized “farm” where they drive people in and out of one field to grab a pumpkin and then pay more to buy the pumpkin. That’s the way God and our ancestors intended it.

The picture of everyone in the

group standing in the field holding their pumpkins is also a necessity. If this isn’t on your pumpkin patch agenda, you might as well get a refund. The photo needs to have a weird filter on it, and one person needs to be in a sorority squat — those are the rules.

Hey, we still got a weekend; anybody up to go spend an equivalent to a week’s worth of groceries at Vala’s?

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

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CONTACT US	
Newsroom:	(660) 562-1224
Advertising:	(660) 562-1635
Circulation:	(660) 562-1528
Fax:	(660) 562-1521

NEWS STAFF	
Emily Kunkel	Designer
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PANDEMIC PRESIDENT



Student Senate President Senior Kirayle Jones is crowned as Northwest's Homecoming king Oct. 9 during the Homecoming Showcase at the Memorial Bell Tower.

Jones leads in strange term

NATHAN ENGLISH
Reporter | @nathan_3nglish

Kirayle Jones stood before the distanced roundtables in an Oregon sweatshirt, black shorts and a mask. He was talking not only to the senators loosely clustered around the tables but to a laptop sitting on a chair that was the vessel to the online patrons of the meeting. It wasn't the presidential experience Jones envisioned, but he is determined to make the most of it.

The president of the most powerful student organization on campus decided to attend Northwest because of early hands-on experience and a chicken sandwich with curly fries.

"It was kind of a last-minute decision actually," Jones said of deciding to become a Bearcat.

He first became interested in Northwest because some friends from his high school — Skutt Catholic High School in Omaha, Nebraska — were interested in possibly joining the football team. So, after a positive experience on the first floor of the Union on a campus tour, where he learned that as an education major he would be able to get in the classroom early on in his freshman year, Jones's fate was sealed.

Jones seemingly made a practice run at his current position as student ambassador before officially becoming a Bearcat by convincing his high school friend and golf teammate Ryley Schumacher to follow him to Maryville. Schumacher and Jones have been roommates since their first semester where the two resided in Hudson 423.

A person with Jones's resume has to love Northwest. He is an ambassador, member of Student Senate at Northwest, involved in Greek Life and Homecoming royalty. The love for Northwest didn't come automatically, however.

Jones first moved in as a part of the TRIO program, meaning he arrived about a week before most other students. He described the campus and his experience in that first week as bland and boring. He didn't quite feel at home yet, but that eventually changed when other Bearcats began populating Northwest.

"Then that's when I was like, 'Wow, college is amazing,'"



At the Student Senate meeting, Student Senate President Senior Kirayle Jones stands to address senate members Oct. 20 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom.

Jones said.

Jones, like many freshmen, was determined to get involved and dove headlong into activities. He came in with the notion that he wanted to be in Greek Life and had already had a connection to Sigma Tau Gamma. Schumacher's sister's boyfriend was the president of the fraternity at the time, so Jones and Schumacher were determined to check it out but wanted to keep their options open.

"We wanted to see which (fraternity) would be more inviting," Jones said. "It was kinda like a real family-like and brotherhood feeling. I can say that I felt something like that at the other fraternities, but it was different at Sig Tau."

With one part of his Northwest career already cemented, another

was beginning to set as well.

Jones was involved with the student government at Skutt Catholic and wanted to continue that at Northwest. He attended a Senate meeting shortly before the first round of elections of that semester, and he was enthralled.

"You could see everybody giving their reports and everybody was so invested in their organization and college life, per se," Jones said. "This is something I wanted to do."

Jones ran for a freshman representative position, and as is typical with elections he is competing in, he won and made a prophetic statement shortly after.

"I remember vividly saying once I got elected as the freshman rep, 'I'm going to be president some-

day,'" Jones said.

"Once he gets his head into something, it's hard to stop him," Schumacher said.

Jones, however, was not satisfied with his role as a freshman representative. He was grateful for the opportunity but felt as though he was only scratching the surface of what he could do in Student Senate. He was really attempting to put himself out there and make it known that he was invested in this organization Jones said. He was willing to snatch up any extra duties that could have been given to him.

"He definitely took Student Senate most seriously out of anything," Schumacher said. "That was his number one priority besides class."

For his sophomore year, Jones decided to take the step towards

KIRAYLE JONES	PROGRESSION THROUGH SENATE
Fall 2017 Spring 2018	FRESHMAN Freshman Representative
Fall 2018 Spring 2019	SOPHOMORE Co-Chair of Governmental Affairs
Fall 2019 Spring 2020	JUNIOR Vice President
Fall 2020 Spring 2021	SENIOR President

more responsibility and become a committee chair. This provided him with the opportunity to be more hands-on, which he craved.

Jones was the co-chair of Government Affairs. Through this, he got the opportunity to travel to Jefferson City and lobby on behalf of higher education, an opportunity which Jones described as "amazing." During the same year, in a rare election moment for Jones, he ran for secretary but his ticket was unsuccessful.

Going into his junior year, he knew he would need to move up the ladder in order to make his prophecy come true, so he ran for vice president under Asma Hassan. Hassan had been someone that Jones knew of but didn't know well. She was an SI for his government class and was a prominent member of Student Senate during Jones's first two years in the organization. Jones was the one who approached her about running as her vice president, and Hassan ultimately decided to add him to the ticket.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
[NWMISSOURINEWS.COM](https://www.missourianews.com)

MHS softball reflects on end of season

TRISTAN LYNCH
Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Although Maryville softball ended its season with a first-round exit in districts, the season wasn't a letdown, as the Spoofhounds managed to complete one of their biggest goals: playing a full season.

Before the season began, Maryville struggled with the on-going complications of COVID-19. The team struggled to find any time during the summer to begin working out or training for the upcoming season and was worried that the season was going to be canceled.

Coach Chandra DeMott knew having a season this year was a goal for most of the senior girls, and that is a big reason she counts this year as a success.

"If you look at most of the girl's Senior Night information, most of them had the goal to at least get to play this season," DeMott said. "So, it was successful in that we got to have a season and we got the opportunity to play a game at all."

During the beginning of the season, Maryville struggled to lock in mentally, as they lost seven of their first eight games of the season. Despite the struggle to win, the team focused on keeping each other motivated and ready to go.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN
In a game against Lafayette High School Oct. 9, Maryville senior Jocelyn Rodriguez prepares to swing the bat. The Spoofhounds beat the Lancers 5-3.

"Everyone was really close," senior catcher Briley Watkins said. "When someone else was down, everyone jumped on it and helped pick them back up. It was really good to see that."

The Spoofhounds began to find somewhat of a streak later into the season, going 5-3 through their last eight games to head into districts with a record of 6-10.

In the first round of the post-

season, Macon beat Maryville, 12-0, effectively ending the Spoofhounds' 2020 campaign with a record of 6-11.

Although the season ended on a loss, DeMott wasn't completely up-

set with the way things panned out.

"Ending with a couple of wins going into districts definitely helped things end not as negatively," DeMott said after their 12-0 loss to the Tigers.

The first-round loss to the Tigers marked the end of four Spoofhounds starters' careers.

Watkins finished her high school career with 91 hits and 71 runs, while having a batting average of .368. She also finished with a fielding percentage of .928% and had 359 putouts.

Morgan Wray, third basemen, finished her career with 39 hits and 40 runs, while having a batting average of .171. She finished with a fielding percentage of .770% and 79 assisted outs.

Ashlyn Alexander, pitcher and first basemen, finished her career with 96 hits and 84 runs, while having a batting average of .412. She finished with a fielding percentage of .976% and having a 10-15 career on the mound with 147 strikeouts and 45 walks.

Emily Cassavaugh, first basemen, finished her career, which began at the start of this season, with a batting average of .293 and had a fielding percentage of .930%, along with 39 putouts.

FULL STORY ONLINE:
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FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM A7

"You don't want a catastrophic injury in a season that really means nothing," Peterson said. "So, if the starters can get two or three good drives in, they'll have film to study."

Peterson said that the situation regarding fans in attendance at each scrimmage is fluid, and nothing has officially been decided yet. He added that all three schools are trying to come to an agreement so there's uniformity among the series of contests.

The original press release announcing the scrimmages said that only families would be allowed, which is what Peterson's sticking to at the moment.

"We've got 150 student-athletes. If they're all gonna have an opportunity to play, I gotta do what's best by them, first and foremost, and that's allowing their families to come show up and do stuff," Peterson said. "We've got so many season ticket holders. To spread them out 6 feet apart from each other, I honestly don't know if we've got the space to do it."

Peterson understands the general excitement about the Bearcats being back, in whatever capacity

it might be. He also understands the reality of the situation, knowing the plans could change at any given moment.

Northwest coach Rich Wright, Central's Jim Svoboda and Washburn's Craig Schurig were in favor of this format, Peterson said, because it provides a safety net considering the fact that games won't count for anything other than reps.

There won't be stats taken. It won't count against anyone's record. In the grand scheme of things, it'll almost be as if the game never happened.

Regardless, Northwest football will be taking the field this fall.

"Statistically, it doesn't mean anything. Records aren't going to be changed because of this," Braden Wright said. "It's more of a bragging right thing, for the players — not even bragging rights — just, we missed spring ball, everything in the summer, we missed fall camp, all of that stuff this year, so really it's just the excitement of getting able to play. At the end of the day, it's the reason a lot of us want to come to school, want to come to Northwest, is to play football as well. So, when that gets taken away it gets hard sometimes, I think we need football now more than ever."

MBB CONTINUED FROM A7

There's less than a month until the Bearcats showcase their talents against the Riverhawks to start their conquest towards another title, but they aren't close to where they need to be, McCollum said.

"We've got a few guys that know how to get through it and get themselves there, but we're just a long way," McCollum said. "We work with a great deal of intensity, and I think it shocks people to start, whereas a lot of people are just excited to be on the practice floor. ... We'd rather grind through it and make it really difficult, and then be good later."

Along with intensity, McCollum praises consistency. With sharpshooter Ryan Welty departing the program due to graduating last year, the Bearcats will be without a surething player.

That leaves Hudgins, along with Laing, standout senior forward Ryan Hawkins and junior guard Diego Bernard, to fill leadership roles.

"We'll be ready; we'll be prepared — most definitely," Hudgins said. "I feel like we have key factors on our team that are going to help us win. I feel like we have some vets on our team that know what to do, and honestly, we could win a lot of games this year."

The Bearcats are 131-6 since the start of their first national champion-

ship season in 2016-17. They have won the most games in Division II basketball across that timeframe. With Hudgins and a strong core of returners, they're primed to do it again.

So until Nov. 19, the Bearcats are left with nothing but preparation for Northeastern State. When the ball gets rolling on another season, last year's disappointing ending will be in the rearview mirror.

"I'm not even worried about last year and how it ended," Hudgins said. "We can't stop a virus. You can't stop diseases and stuff from happening. So, I'm just taking it as, 'Let's just restart. Let's just get hungry again.' We'll listen to Coach Mac to prepare, and we'll be back."

The Crown

hair-reiki-good vibes
Joni Sherlock

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- People can hold us accountable

BUDGET

- Provide law enforcement that best serves Nodaway County within reasonable budget
- As budget has increased by ~\$1 million from 2016-2019

COMMUNITY

- Ensure officers are dedicated to all small communities
- Create community partnerships with county
- Deputies are proud to say they are your neighbor
- Show strength through compassion

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Nodaway County VOTE November 3rd

Golf shows promise at state tourney

MORGAN GUYER
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville girls golf wrapped up its season after outings from three of its golfers at the MSHSAA Class 1 State Tournament at Paradise Pointe in Smithville, Missouri, Oct. 19.

The event was made up of 76 golfers, and it took place over two rounds starting Oct. 19. The two-round format is only used during this event and is unfamiliar to most high school golfers. This was especially true for the three Spoofhounds that participated, who were all making their first appearance.

Freshman Cailyn Auffert capped off a rather impressive first season with a 16th place finish, narrowly missing out on medaling in the top 15. Auffert ended the first day in 12th place after shooting a 100 across the span of 18 holes. She was rewarded with a 9:51 a.m. tee time the second day and ended up shooting a 104 to secure a top 20 finish. She finished with a 204 between both days, collectively.

“It was a better year than I expected it to be,” Auffert said. “Going to state was my goal, and it will definitely help me prepare for next year.”

The cold and windy conditions at Paradise Pointe proved to be a challenge, but Auffert saw some areas where she specifically excelled in, particularly her iron shots and chips, she said.

The weather affected the golfers on both days, but Maryville coach Brenda Ricks was happy with how they responded to it.

“My goodness, the conditions were tough. The cold and wind were brutal,” Ricks said. “With that being said, I never once saw my girls complaining or blaming their play on the weather.”

Auffert puts a lot of her success this season down to the veteran coach.

“I didn’t expect to place in the conference, let alone get top 20



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville High School freshman Casey Phillips chips her ball out of a sand bunker Oct. 15 during practice at the Mozingo Lake Golf Course.

in state,” Auffert said. “I couldn’t have done it without the help of my coach, Brenda.”

Auffert will look to improve over the offseason in order to get back to this stage next season. She could become a four-year state qualifier over her Spoofhound career.

“My ultimate goal would be going to state again next year,” Auffert said. “I would also like to earn a medal, since I was so close

this year.”

Maryville also sent freshman Lauren Jaster to the big stage. Jaster finished her first day with 122 over 18 holes, leaving her tied for 66th. The conditions worsened the next day, and Jaster shot a 134 to finish in 73rd. She totalled a 256 across both days. Jaster had a particular memorable moment, when she holed out from 100 yards on hole 18.

Senior Lauren Padgitt wrapped

up her Spoofhound career with a 64th-place finish. Padgitt finished the first day with a 118, tying for 58th place. Her consistent play resulted in a one-stroke difference for a 119 on the second day, totalling a 237 over two rounds.


Ricks was happy with how her three golfers played.

“I’m very pleased with all three golfers’ efforts. They are very resilient,” Ricks said. “The girls all scored better the first day, but that’s

the nature of the beast.”


Ricks also knows how important this experience was for her girls, but especially for the two freshmen.

“State golf will be much easier for them next year with having experience of the competition,” Ricks said. “As I said before, it’s a different beast. I want them to focus on the good that happened, those good shots and holes.”




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MADI GLASS | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville volleyball practices as a team Oct. 16 in the 'Hound Pound to prepare for upcoming games. The Spoofhounds claimed another MEC title, as well as the top seed in their district for the start of postseason play.

Maryville volleyball wins MEC, claims top seed for postseason

TANNER SMITH
Sports Reporter | @t_smit02

Maryville volleyball heads into districts with a first round bye looking to repeat efforts from last season.

The Spoofhounds head into the Class 3 District 16 tournament with an overall record of 14-2 with one loss coming from a conference opponent. Maryville coach Miranda Mizera leads a senior-heavy team with playoff experience into the postseason, with seven of the 10 girls being seniors.

The Spoofhounds’ last match-up was a sweep against Chillicothe Oct. 15. The 'Hounds look to seniors outside hitter Serena Sundell and setter Macy Loe to lead the team on and off the court.

“There are a lot of leaders on this team because we are so senior heavy and everyone has experience,” Mizera said. “Serena Sundell and Macy Loe would be our slated captains, but all the girls lead in their own way.”

The team has not changed its training habits throughout the past week even though districts are coming up. The main focus has been working on its side of the net to perfect its offensive and defen-

sive rotations.

The 'Hounds have had miscues on their side of the net throughout some sets during the season, but Loe feels that the team has been able to overcome their mistakes throughout the later part of the year.

“We are doing many of the drills we did before and are still pushing ourselves everyday,” Loe said. “Coach Mizera talks to us a lot about playing our own game instead of focusing who is on the other side of the net, so we are excited to see what we can accomplish.”

The 'Hounds posted a good enough record in the MEC to head into districts with a first-round bye. They were able to do the same last year, so this did not come as a shock to the team.

Having a first round bye can cause some teams to lay back and not be ready for their opponent, but the 'Hounds feel that this will not affect their play.

“It is similar to the regular season because we have already seen all of these teams once,” Mizera said. “We had the bye last year, and this year we knew, being in first place, we could get it again.”

Maryville will await the winner of a first round game between Cam-

UP NEXT

Class 3 District 16 Tourney
Oct. 26-27
Cameron, Missouri

eron and Chillicothe to see who it’ll face for its first postseason competition this year. The 'Hounds have swept all sets against both teams this season.

The 'Hounds look to take advantage of this first round bye by implementing more training and scout the teams to be prepared for their matchup.

“This gives us more time to prepare and practice,” Loe said. “Last year, we had the same experience and we used our off game to scout the teams, which is fun for us and we always find a way to reach our goals.”

The 'Hounds will play either Cameron or Chillicothe Oct. 27 in Cameron, Missouri.

“We look forward to playing how we know we can play and achieve our goals as a team,” Loe said. “I’ve played with these girls for years now and we are all close, so we want to show what Maryville volleyball can do.”



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Maryville High School junior Spencer Willnerd protects the ball against St. Joseph-Benton freshman Connor Mears during the Spoofhounds’ game Oct. 6. The two teams played on the new astroturf at Bearcat Pitch.

Soccer halted after positive COVID case

DALTON TRUSSELL
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

Maryville boys soccer has had a lot of ups and downs this year due to COVID-19.



Maryville has struggled to play games this season year because of the pandemic, which has effectively canceled 12 games for the Spoofhounds. The problem continued for the Spoofhounds this week, with yet another positive COVID-19 test, the games leading up to Oct. 26 have been cancelled. This will be a rough go of things with districts coming up on Oct. 31. Even though the 'Hounds have quite a few days off before districts, not everyone is certain that this is a good thing for the team. Maryville coach Chase Tolson had his doubts about how this could help the team. "Yes, it is a relief, and no it isn't at the same time, but there were a lot of games really close together and we wanted to avoid injuries," Tolson said. "It sucks at the same time 'cause we missed a lot of the first half of the season due to COVID, and it's going to hurt a little bit, but less injuries. It is going to make

the district seeding very tricky." However, the time away may be a blessing in disguise for the soccer team. Tolson is staying positive and sees the extra time off as an advantage against the Spoofhounds' future opponent as they will be rested and fully healthy by the time the district tournament comes around. "We are hoping the guys stay in shape and work on their ball skills at home," Tolson said. "We would've loved to be able to play and build chemistry during game time, but the extra time off could be beneficial to us." When the Spoofhounds get out of quarantine this week, they will be back to practicing and focusing on the task at hand with districts. The coaches have kept the players busy during quarantine with workouts to do in their free time. "We provided them with workouts they can do at home, that way when they get out of quarantine, we can pick up right where we left off," Tolson said. "We are hoping that as soon as they get out of quarantine, we can try to do as much as we can before our first district game next Saturday."

UP NEXT

MHS v St. Pius X
4 p.m. Oct. 26
Bearcat Pitch

When the athletes come back, they are going to take even further safety measures to ensure that nothing will hurt the chances at competing during districts. The Spoofhounds are doing what they can so they do not have to quarantine while the district tournament is going on. "Other than the quarantine, we are going to be wearing a mask every practice, and we will do check-ins at the beginning of practice," Tolson said. "Before every practice, we will check the temperatures of the players. We are also only allowing one to a seat on bus rides and making sure they are wearing masks on the bus." The soccer team, much like the rest of Maryville sports, had to battle with COVID-19 throughout the season. As their season heads towards the end, the Spoofhounds are still moving forward with hopes of competing in any way they can.



Maryville football sophomore running back Caden Stoecklein breaks tackles in the Spoofhounds’ Sept. 11 matchup with Chillicothe. Maryville is hoping for at least a share of the MEC title with a Week 9 win over Lafayette.

Spoofhounds prep for Irish ahead of postseason play

CALVIN SILVERS
Sports Reporter | @CalvinSilvers




Maryville football traveled to Odessa, Missouri, Oct. 12 to face the then No. 2 Odessa Bulldogs. After losing 28-14 to Odessa, Maryville coach Matt Webb told his team the close matchup would be a turning point in the season. Now, the 'Hounds find themselves with two straight wins, including one over powerhouse Lincoln College Prep in Week 7 and another over MEC rival Savannah in Week 8. The Spoofhounds (5-3, 3-1 MEC) will look to finish the regular season on a three-game win streak before the postseason, push for 11 wins in a row against Lafay-

UP NEXT

MHS @ Lafayette
7 p.m. Oct. 23
St. Joseph, Missouri

ette and share the MEC title with St. Pius X when they face the Fighting Irish (3-4, 2-3 MEC) Oct. 23 in St. Joseph, Missouri. "Everybody is ready to finish off the regular season on a hopeful high note and keep things rolling," Maryville senior running back Connor Weiss said. "Everyone is bought in and stoked to play a good Lafayette team."

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'Cats to return this fall

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Northwest Athletics announced Oct. 19 that Northwest football plans to play scrimmages Nov. 7 on the road against Washburn and Nov. 21 in Bearcat Stadium against Central Missouri.



UP NEXT

NW @ Washburn
3 p.m. Nov. 7
Topeka, Kansas

The Bearcats sat in the wake of other MIAA schools announcing full games against each other, as well as other Division II and FCS schools. Northwest won't be playing any real games, but the Bearcats are still back.

"We probably won't even put the score up on the scoreboard," Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson said. "The coaches wanted to be able to let the guys live, so they don't have to go two full years without a live snap of football, but not go so crazy that you're jeopardizing health and all that other stuff. ... It's not going to be a football game like people are used to seeing and feeling in Bearcat Stadium."

For the players, it'll be an oddity of its own. During the weeks leading up to the matchups, the Bearcats will ramp things up to prepare for their first competition since 2019. For the starters, they'll get no more than 30 minutes of football before having to shut things down.

"Everyone wants to play the whole game, but even in a regular year, that's not always the reality," Northwest junior quarterback Braden Wright said. "There are games whether a poor performance gets you taken out, winning by a lot can get you taken out early, that can happen in a regular game so you just have to make the most of your time out there regardless."

The decision to play the Ichabods in Topeka, Kansas, along with the Mules in Maryville, was one of seldom options Northwest found feasible to happen this fall. Peterson said the decision to play those two schools boiled down to which programs could come to an agreement in terms of what a scrimmage or game would look like, along with what was financially feasible.

The two-hour trip from Maryville to Topeka allows Northwest to make the trip, play the game and return home all in the same day, effectively avoiding any hotel expenses. The

same goes for when Central will travel to Bearcat Stadium.

After Missouri Western, Pitt State and Nebraska-Kearney scheduled a series of games against each other for this fall, Northwest was left wondering what, if anything, was in store.

"Obviously we heard of other teams playing people, so we always had a little bit of hope that we could get a game scheduled," Braden Wright said. "Now that it's actually here, it's exciting to get the chance to go out and compete against someone else instead of seeing your own guys every day. ... Only positives can come from this, as long as we can stay healthy and get to that game, that would be a good thing for everybody."

The three programs, specifically the coaches, came together to agree on only playing the starters for the first half and reserves for the rest of the scrimmage. The decision to have scrimmages, and not full games, was to give each program an evaluation of the team that it missed out on due to COVID-19 cancellations.

Peterson compared the likes of the format of the scrimmages to an NFL preseason game.

"We've got a new offensive coordinator, and he's going to try stuff and try new things. It's a win-win-win from a football standpoint," Peterson said. "The wins and losses aren't there, so you don't have to worry about that judgment factor. ... The main thing that they're missing is that evaluation piece for the younger kids. ... If you go against the same person every day, you never really get any type of good look. If all of a sudden you can go against a kid from Washburn or Central Missouri who's got completely different tendencies, mannerisms, technique, all that stuff, you learn how to play football."

Along with the evaluation, the format was designed to keep the health of the student-athletes with everyone's best interest.

SEE FOOTBALL | A7



ADDALYNN BRADBURY | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest senior wideout Alec Tatum catches a pass during football practice Oct. 20 at Bearcat Stadium. Northwest Athletics announced Oct. 19 that the program will scrimmage Washburn Nov. 7 and Central Missouri Nov. 21.

Men return to practice to prep for 'Hawks

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJonWalker

Trevor Hudgins put on his right shoe, then his left. They weren't the usual neutral-colored shoes with a touch of Bearcat green the junior guard usually wears.

Instead, they were in an exuberant, multi-colorway on the second edition of NBA superstar James Harden's signature shoe with Adidas.

Northwest men's basketball had its first official practice of the 2020-21 season Oct. 15, effectively making that the first time Hudgins laced up his shoes for an official organized gathering of the team since March 12 — the day in which coach Ben McCollum told the Bearcats their season was shut down due to COVID-19 concerns.

"It feels great," Hudgins said. "It just feels good to be back on a court. It's definitely a relief just being in practice."

Hudgins and the rest of the program weren't exactly sure what this winter held in store. The Bearcats haven't been too sure of anything since the abrupt end to last season.

The MIAA's suspension of fall sports Aug. 14 didn't seem to play in favor of basketball's fate. The long-awaited decision regarding winter sports was announced by the MIAA Oct. 1, effectively giving the Bearcats the green light to move forward with preparing for the season, which starts Nov. 19 on the road against Northeastern State.

For now, the men are just happy to have a season to look forward to.

"It's kinda surreal that first day. It's just like, 'Oh, we're actually gonna be back at it,' It was good today," McCollum said. "The intensity has gotta continue to grow. We haven't played at such an intense level in a while, just because



GRACE ELROD | NW MISSOURIAN
Northwest men's basketball coach Ben McCollum leads the Bearcat's first official practice Oct. 15 in Bearcat Arena. The Bearcats' season starts Nov. 19 against MIAA foe Northeastern State in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

of last season and how quickly it ended. We're a work in progress, but I think we'll get there."

Hudgins spent the first two eight-minute periods of practice running through drills with names that aren't as common as his throughout Maryville. Freshmen Spencer Schomers, Byron Alexander, Isaiah Jackson, Christian Stanislav and Daniel Abreu accompanied

Hudgins throughout those drills.

Between each shot that Hudgins put up, the traditionally quieter junior guided and gave pointers to players that haven't been in his shoes before.

"I feel like my freshman year, I was like, 'I can't wait to be (a leader),' " Hudgins said. "Now that I'm here, I'm like, 'Man, I'm old.' ... It's fun; it's just the process. I've

enjoyed the entire process, just coming here freshman year and not knowing one thing about anything. Now, my junior year, just trying to be more of a leader all around and help the team as much as I can."

And it wasn't long before McCollum's intense presence was felt throughout Bearcat Arena. Practice for the Bearcats started at 2:30 p.m., with them not taking the court

until 2:45 p.m. after a brief film session. McCollum's voice became hoarse around 3:20 p.m.

It's a level of intensity, Hudgins said, that's part of the reason the Bearcats are among the top teams in the country every year.

"Just imagine the Chiefs winning the Super Bowl at Arrowhead Stadium, just that noise, and that feeling you'd have, just towards competition," Hudgins said. "All of that yelling, all of that screaming and stuff, and it's just mind-blowing; that's exactly how it is. I don't really know how else to explain it because it's something different, to be honest. It definitely is a shock when you're new. Honestly, it still might be a shock."

"I think, even during preseason, how we workout is more intense than most teams. I just feel like the way we prepare for games is better. I don't even know what other teams do; I just know that we're ready for every game, every play, anything that may happen — we're ready for it."

The shock Hudgins reiterated isn't a discredit to the freshmen, but rather speaks volumes to the level of intensity brought to the court from the program that won two national championships in three years.

It's a level that he holds himself to throughout every drill.

During the third eight-minute period of practice, the Bearcats took each other one-on-one to work on isolation offense and defense. Hudgins locked down senior guard Daric Laing, forcing him to pick up his dribble. Laing pulled up and buried the 3-pointer over the outstretched arm of Hudgins.

"Man, I'm so sick right now," Hudgins said about allowing the score.

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